

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In order to prevent a toner residual amount from being erroneously judged as "toner present" after the toner residual amount has been judged to be
5 insufficient, the toner residual amount detection apparatus of the present invention has a developing device for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member by a toner, the developing device being provided for movement relative to an
10 apparatus main body, a sensor for outputting information corresponding to the toner residual amount in the developing device, a judging device for comparing the output of the sensor with a reference value to thereby judge the toner residual amount,
15 wherein image forming is inhibited via a predetermined number of times of image forming after the toner residual amount is judged to be not sufficient, and a changing device for changing the reference value to a smaller value with the judgement
20 that the toner residual amount is not sufficient.